



Dr Sunita Gandhi  
Educator

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- 2025 Excellence in Education Award, [Times of India](#), Lucknow
- 2024 Education Leadership [FICCI Ladies Organisation \(FLO\) Award](#)
- 2020 Shining World Caring Award, [Ching Hai International Association](#), Taiwan\*
- 2019 Best Woman Start-up Entrepreneur, [IIM Lucknow](#)
- 2017 [Visionary of Uttar Pradesh Award\\*\\*](#)
- 2015 Honorary Doctorate, [University of Vietnam](#)
- 2014 Educator of the Year, [India Book of Records](#)
- 1996 [Most Outstanding Contribution to Development Award, World Bank\\*\\*\\*](#)

\*With a gift of USD 15,000 (donated the entire amount to DEVI Sansthan from source)

\*\*Given by the two Deputy Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, organized by DainikBhaskar.com, along with Visionaries of Uttar Pradesh Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DO2NiScsMQ>

\*\*\*Given for Project in Morocco on Participation of Women was showcased as one of top three from the World Bank at the UN Summit, Copenhagen in 1996

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- 2015 B.Ed. Lucknow University, India
- 1987 Ph.D. in Physics, Trinity College, Cambridge University, UK\*
- 1983 B.Sc. (Hons.) in Physics, Imperial College, London University, UK
- 1980 A-Levels, Peterborough Technical College, UK
- 1975-1978 Middle & High School, St. Agnes' Loreto, Lucknow, India
- 1965-1974 Primary School, City Montessori School, Lucknow, India

\*She received three merit scholarships to study Physics at Cambridge: Trinity College Scholarship, Overseas Student Award, and the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Scholarship

CAREER SUMMARY

- 2014-Present Founder-CEO, Dignity Education Vision International ([DEVI Sansthan](#)), India\*
- 2000-2007 President, [Islensku menntasamtokin ses](#), Hafnarfjordur, Iceland
- 1998-Present President, [Council for Global Education](#), USA
- 1988-1998 Economist, [The World Bank](#), Washington, DC, USA\*\*
- 1987-1988 Research Scientist, [Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories](#), Berkeley University, USA

\*Founded by Sunita Gandhi in 1992 on a visit to India; became its CEO in 2014; started the [Global Dream](#) Leave No One Behind Campaign for Literacy in 2014, which formed the basis of the [ALfA, Accelerating Learning for All](#) pedagogy rolled out in 2022.

\*\*Selected in the highly competitive [Young Professionals Program \(YPP\)](#) at the World Bank.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

- 2016-Present Director, Global Education & Training Institute ([GETI](#)), India
- 2016-2019 Member, [Confederation of Indian Industries, National Committee on Education](#)
- 2007-Present Chief Academic Advisor, [City Montessori School, Lucknow](#), India
- 2007-Present Director, [City International Schools](#), India
- 2006-Present Director, [Global Classroom Pvt. Ltd.](#), Lucknow, India\*
- 2002 Founder [Aslandsskoli](#) and [Tjarnaras](#) (Iceland's first two charter schools)
- 2001 Founder, Islensku menntasamtokin SES (Education Society of Iceland)
- 1994 Founder, [Global Concepts International School](#), Praha, The Czech Republic
- 1975 Founder, Little Flower School (for out-of-school-children)

\* These schools have served as laboratory for experimental work in education. She has established or given franchise to 26 schools across India and is incubating an education based on the Ipsative principle of '[Compete with Yourself!](#)' and ALfA: Accelerating Learning for All.

## INTERNATIONAL VISITS

Dr. Gandhi has travelled to 51 countries to study their education systems and meet stakeholders:



## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

[Gandhi S., et.al. \(2024\) ALfA: A Groundbreaking Pedagogy to Transform Education](#), Bloomsbury, India.

[Gandhi S., et.al. \(2022\), Disruptive Literacy: A Roadmap for Immediate Global Action](#), Bloomsbury, India.

### Book Chapter:

[Gandhi S. \(2017\) Compete With Yourself \(CWY\): Maximising Learning Gain in Schools](#). In: Hughes G. (eds) Ipsative Assessment and Personal Learning Gain. Palgrave Macmillan, London.

### Research Papers:

[The Inconvenient Truth of Indian Illiteracy Inequality: Intersectional Socio-Demographic Disadvantage As A Climate Change Vulnerability Multiplier](#), Sunita Gandhi, Kaaren Mathias, Linda Seefeldt, Thomas Delaney, Journal of New Economics, Centre for Development, Glasgow University, UK, November 2021

[Intersectionality of Socio-demographic Disadvantage, The Inconvenient Truth of Illiteracy Inequality](#), Sunita Gandhi, Kaaren Mathias, Linda Seefeldt, Thomas Delaney, Economic & Political Weekly, August 2021

### Reports\*:

- Gandhi, S. [Why Cant the Children Read \(2019\)](#)
- Gandhi, S. [Accelerating Adult Literacy \(2019\)](#)

\*Based on first-hand literacy survey of 1.5 million individuals 6-60 years of age in 396,000 households undertaken by Dr. Sunita Gandhi with the help of nearly 4000 government teachers of Lucknow

### World Bank Reports & Papers

[Morocco: Enhancing the Participation of Women in Development](#), Chapter 2, The Participation Sourcebook, World Bank, 1996, ISBN 0-82113-3558

[World Bank Policy Paper: Energy Efficiency and Conservation in the Developing World](#), The World Bank's Role, 1993, ISBN 0-8213-2317-2, Robert J. Saunders & Sunita Gandhi

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & WORK TRAVELS

- **2008-Present** Convenor, [Ed Leadership International Roundtable Conferences\\*](#)
- **2024,25** Convenor, [Leadership Circle, Lucknow](#)
- **2024** Participant, [Foundational Learning Exchange \(FLEX\), Rwanda](#)
- **2022** Chief Guest, [6th International Teachers Conference, Maldives](#)
- **2018** Keynote, [BETT ASIA, Malaysia](#)
- **2017** Keynote, [International Education Conference, Thailand](#)
- **2013** Keynote, [Annual Conference, Finnish National Board of Education, Finland](#)
- **2009** Keynote, [Australian Montessori Education Conference, Australia](#)
- **2000** Keynote, [International Education Conference, Hawaii](#)
- **2000** Keynote and Roundtable Host, [State-of-the-World-Forum, Ireland](#)
- **1999** Keynote and Roundtable Host, [State-of-the-World-Forum, USA](#)
- **1996** Keynote, [UN Summit, Copenhagen, Denmark](#)
- **1993** Keynote, [UN Womens Conference, Jordan](#)
- **1992** Keynote, A New Framework for Education, Finland

Convenor, speaker and participant in numerous conferences in several countries on issues of literacy, education development, research & policy, among others:

\*In 2021, the 13th Ed Leadership Conference was on the theme as an Online Event: The Power of Change, Inspiring the Teacher Within. This was India's biggest education conference of India with 85 speakers from 37 countries, with over 19,000 educators from 50 countries participating

\*In 2022, the 14th Ed Leadership Conference, 4-6 August, 2022 was on the theme of Disruptive Education

\*In 2022, First Synergy Summit for CSR Heads, July 9-11

\*In 2023, First Policy Makers Conclave (online) and Roll-out of MOOTs: Massive Open Online Trainings

\*In 2024, Second Synergy Summit for CSR Heads, January 11-12